United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ More than four million votes recorded by third day of Cambodian election; final turnout of 90 to 95 per cent projected; spokesman says election is "tremendous accomplishment".

+ Deployment of United Nations observer mission on Ugandan side of Rwanda/Uganda border proposed by Secretary-General in interim report to Security Council.

+ Security Council, after periodic review of sanctions against Iraq, says "there was no agreement" to modify sanctions imposed under resolution 687 (1991).

+ Security Council expected to refer to Committee on Admission requests by Monaco and Eritrea for United Nations Membership; Committee to recommend admission of two States.

+ Special Envoy to Haiti returns from Port-au-Prince for meeting with Secretaries-General of United Nations and OAS to analyse situation in that country "in detail".

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More than four million people -- or 85 to 90 per cent of registered voters -- have already voted in the Cambodian election which began Sunday, a United Nations spokesman said today. It was projected that 90 to 95 per cent of eligible Cambodians would have voted when the election ends on Friday, 28 May, which was "a tremendous accomplishment", according to the spokesman.

There had been no serious incidents of violence and voters were very enthusiastic, he noted. In one or two districts, some soldiers from the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), which had refused to participate in the election, had voted.

Today was the last day of voting at fixed polling stations and there had been a steady turnout. It was expected that preliminary results from some districts would be released on 29 May, but there was no plan to make

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projections on the overall election outcome, the spokesman pointed out. The count would be concluded by 6 June, although results might be available as early as 1 June.

The spokesman recalled that the purpose of the election was to elect a constituent assembly in Cambodia, which would have three months to draft a constitution on which to base the Government. Many problems remained, he went on to say, including the formation of the Government, the reconstruction of the country, and the issue of the NADK's non-participation in the election.

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In order to encourage the parties to actively pursue peace and national reconciliation in Rwanda, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed to set up a United Nations observer mission on the Ugandan side of the Rwanda/Uganda border, for an initial period of up to six months, according to an interim report to the Security Council. The proposal follows requests by both Rwanda and Uganda for a United Nations presence on their common border. The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) is opposed to deployment on Rwanda's side of the border.

The deployment of United Nations observers would underscore the international community's interest in peace and security in the region and signal its willingness to support the talks currently under way in Arusha, the Secretary-General says in his report, dated 20 May. The mission, to be known as the "United Nations Observer Mission Uganda/Rwanda" (UNOMUR), would require 81 military observers, 17 international and seven local civilian support staff. Two United Nations military experts have already been sent to Addis Ababa to support the peace-keeping efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Rwanda.

Under resolution 812 (1993) adopted in mid-March, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to examine how United Nations observers could be deployed on the border between the two countries. It urged the parties to respect the cease-fire and resume their peace talks in Arusha with a view to the signing of an agreement.

The talks resumed shortly thereafter in the Tanzanian city of Arusha under the auspices of that country, which is acting as a facilitator. The agenda covers military issues, refugees and displaced, the amendment of the Constitution, as well as the duration of the transitional period.
S/25810

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The Security Council yesterday issued a statement saying that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for a modification of the sanctions imposed on Iraq under resolution 687 (1991), which set the terms for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war. The Council reviews the sanctions against Iraq every 60 days.

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Meanwhile, Iraq has said that the recent report by the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament (UNSCOM) with regard to Iraq's compliance with resolution 687 contained "inaccurate allegations" which "distorted the picture of Iraq". It was clear that UNSCOM had been "accusatory and not objective" in its review and presentation of Iraq's positions, Nizar Hamdoon, the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in a letter to the Council President, dated 21 May.

Iraq had not rejected future verification and monitoring of its compliance with resolution 687, and was willing to meet its requirements on the basis of respect for its sovereignty, dignity and security, the letter said.

The Commission, which was set up under resolution 687 (1991) to monitor the Iraq's obligation to provide full disclosure of its weapons of mass destruction, submitted its report to the Council on 19 April.
S/25815

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The Security Council was expected to refer this evening to the Committee on the Admission of New Member States the request by Monaco and Eritrea for United Nations membership. That action was to be taken during two consecutive formal meetings held after consultations on the subject.

The Committee on Admission was expected to meet shortly thereafter and decide to recommend to the General Assembly that both countries be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy to Haiti of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) returned from Port-au-Prince yesterday for a meeting today with the Secretaries-General of the OAS and the United Nations, according to a statement issued yesterday in the Haitian capital.

Mr. Caputo told the press upon leaving Haiti after two days of talks with Haitian military leaders that he would be analysing the situation in the country in detail with the Secretaries-General.

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